

ligion of Jesus Christ, and what we want is to get the religion of Jesus Christ into the church and then the armies will go.

#### CHURCH OFFICIALS

C. H. WETHERBE

No Christian church should have in prominent office any member other than an honest, capable and reliable person. While it is not to be expected that church officials shall be perfect people, yet one has a right to expect that churches shall take pains to choose men for office that are at least honest, reliable and fair minded. It is because churches in too many cases, have in office certain members who are not fair minded, thoroughly honest men that the cause of Christ greatly suffers and those churches also suffer, both financially and spiritually. A short time ago, while spending several weeks in a state adjoining my own, I was invited to supply the pulpit of a church not very far from the place where I made my home. I had to take the cars and go to a certain place, and from thence I was conveyed by a team several miles to the vicinity of the church, on the Saturday preceding the day that I was to supply. On Sunday the weather was so very stormy that but few people could get to church. It seemed best under the circumstances, to not give a formal, regular sermon, but we had a prayer and conference meeting which I led and during which I made somewhat extended comments on a chapter. The next day I returned to my temporary home. Nothing was said to me by any member of that church about my being paid for my services, nor a word about paying my expenses, although a prominent member of the pulpit committee was at that meeting, he being also a deacon of the church. A few weeks after being there I wrote to the clerk of the church, reminding him of the fact that I had not been paid anything for my services, and stating that I would leave the amount to be paid me to the honor and generosity of the church. A month passed, and yet no reply came. Another letter was sent, this time to the deacon referred to, containing a similar import, but no response. This church has a membership of nearly one hundred and fifty members, many of them being wealthy. Need such a church wonder if troubles and losses come upon them? Those officials cannot prosper.

#### EXPANSION

J. S. C. SPICKERMAN

The Brethren church has always opposed war, especially war for selfish purposes, like the acquisition of territory. Last summer when our country was engaged in a war for the liberation of the oppressed Cubans, many of us could not help feeling a strong interest in the success of the American armies. It was

a time which sorely tried peace principles. "What would you do, let Spain go on with her cruelties?" is a question which has no doubt occurred to most of us; or perhaps the question has been put to us by those who oppose peace doctrines. But now the United States occupies the position, not of deliverer, but of oppressor, and the men who enlisted to free the Cubans are now compelled to fight the Philipinos and rob them of the independence for which they have been struggling so long. This is not the first warning that Christians have had against engaging in war, however worthy may be the cause. "Doing evil that good may come" has always been a failure, and always will be.

But what are we to do? Let tyrants go on with their evil deeds, while we do nothing to stop them? By no means. We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world (Matt. 5:13, 14;) it is our mission "to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke. Isa. 58:6. But these things are best done, not with sword and cannon, as the world's people suppose, but with the weapons that are "not carnal, but mighty thro God to the pulling down of strongholds." II Cor. 10:4. "The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" Eph. 6:7, is the weapon with which we are to fight. If Christians were half as active in conquering the world for God as the world's people are in their wars, many a war might have been prevented. Suppose the Christians of America had from the beginning waged a vigorous united campaign against slavery, it might have been abolished without war, besides making the condition of the southern people, both black and white, far better than it is now. True, it would have cost self denial, and probably persecution, but a soldier of the cross must not expect an easy time any more than a soldier of the world. Again, suppose Spain had been conquered by the gospel, there would have been no cause for the recent war.

But now a new problem and a new responsibility confronts our nation; that of governing and civilizing alien races. Shall this be done by the gospel or by force? This is for Christians to decide. The gospel, faithfully taught and practiced will make these people honest, industrious and virtuous. Without it they will be a constant source of trouble.

But our obligation is not limited to the lands over which our flag floats. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. We are enlisted to expand the kingdom of Christ independent of earthly governments.

There are several reasons why the Brethren church ought to engage in the work of conquering the world for Christ.

In the first place we cannot obey the whole gospel unless we do.

In the second place, a church which preaches and practices peace principles would not be held responsible for the hostile acts which prejudice many nations against Christianity. The Chinese are naturally suspicious of the religion of those who forced opium upon them. The Indians have no use for the religion of those who have robbed them of their lands. The Philipinos will probably connect Protestantism with American aggression, as they already connect Romanism with Spanish tyranny. But the Brethren can go among these nations with our hands clean of blood. While our peace doctrines will certainly meet opposition there, as everywhere else, the gospel preached by those who practice it, will be more effectual than the preaching of those who uphold these crimes of so-called Christian nations.

Moreover, the world needs the gospel of "peace on earth, good will toward men." Look at Central and South America with their frequent bloody revolutions. Tho nominally Christian, their leaders think it perfectly lawful to stir up wars and slay their own countrymen to gratify their ambitions. Again, take Europe. All the nations except Turkey are Christian in name, and make a great show of their religion; yet no heathen people could surpass them in the amount of time, money and thought given to war. Their elaborate murdering apparatus is the chief care of their rulers. Their people are taught the monstrous doctrine that it is their Christian duty to slaughter their brethren of other countries for doing the same Christian duty (?) for their own governments.

How can a church which upholds this heathenish system teach Christ's law of love to non-Christian races? It is the duty of the few churches that teach the Bible doctrine of peace, and especially of the Brethren, to teach the heathen the Christian religion as Christ himself taught it.

Maryville, Mo.

#### REST

VIOLA LIPPOLD

Rest is a state of repose; a cessation from motion or labor; tranquility; freedom from everything which wearies or disturbs; peace; security.—Webster.

These are different kinds of rest. I shall speak only of physical, mental and spiritual rest.

Physical rest is the peculiarly pleasant sensation which comes to the body after ceasing from violent and continued exertion. In cases where the hands have been kept in constant motion for hours wringing clothes or other muscular exertion, what a comfort it is to have the hands motionless for a few moments. Or when we have walked a long distance